

McClellan Family



The McClellan name was brought to Frankenmuth in 1975 by Gary E. McClellan. Gary had many interests in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan; but his first love was developing new businesses, especially in keeping with his expertise – fudge making and fudge shops. Gary and his wife, Carol, knew they had to find a town that would delight in their long-time favorite confection. A three-day search ended when they entered the cleanest town they had ever seen – Frankenmuth, Michigan. Knowing there's nothing as delicious as chocolate fudge, the McClellans opened the "Frankenmuth Fudge Kitchen" on Cass Avenue in Frankenmuth. An adventurous experience with the Bavarian culture, people and language emerged over the next ten years. An old German saying, "Arbeit macht das Leben süss" ("Work makes life happy") sets the tone for life in Frankenmuth. Gary joined right in, learned the language and worked with everybody else. His love for singing gave rise to the now popular Gemuetlichkeit Club, a group of lively men who sing German songs to sustain the Bavarian language and traditions. In 1984, Gary moved his family to Frankenmuth. There were now 7 shops: the Frankenmuth Woolen Mill, Gramma's House, Zak's Kandy Haus, Jaami's Jams and Jellies, the Frankenmuth Fudge Kitchen, the Frankenmuth Taffy Kitchen and Mac's Fudge.

Gary E. McClellan was born on December 6, 1940 in Detroit, Michigan to Wilbur A. and Charlotte nee Kummer McClellan. He attended St. Joan of Arc Grade School, St. Clair Shores and Austin Preparatory High School for Boys in Detroit, graduating in 1959. Gary received a Bachelor of Science in Business from the University of Detroit in 1964. On June 16, 1967, he married Carol Kinney, a figure skater and teacher from Sault Ste. Marie. Carol's parents were Walter and Lorraine Kinney, proprietors of the famous Antlers Bar & Restaurant in the Soo. Gary and Carol had four children: Abby, Ginger, Jaami and Zak.

Abby McClellan was born July 19, 1968. Before graduating from high school, she had opened a shop at the Birch Run Outlet Mall called "Abby's Cookies and Cream". At nineteen she had two ice cream shops and simultaneously attended Michigan State University. At twenty-one she opened a fudge, jam and jelly shop at Edinburgh Outlet Mall in Indiana and, a year later, an additional shop in Nashville. After nine years, she returned to Frankenmuth and helped manage the McClellan Properties.

Ginger McClellan was born May 1, 1971. She earned a business degree at Northwood University in Midland, and another degree at Michigan College of Beauty in Troy. She worked for David Miller, a member of the State Board of Cosmetology/Esthetics Licensing in Indiana.

Jaami McClellan was born July 2, 1975. She was a member of the Frankenmuth High School Class "B" State Championship Girls' Basketball Team of 1992. As a member of the varsity team, she was selected as USA Today's "Positive Performer" in January 1997. Jaami graduated from Alma College with a bachelor's degree in business and English.

Zak McClellan was born March 5, 1983. He is in eighth grade at St. Lorenz Lutheran School, is an apprentice fudge-maker, and loves to play hockey.

The McClellan name was brought to America by Daniel McClellan in the mid 1800s. Daniel, Gary's great-grandfather, was born in Scotland in 1848. He immigrated to Detroit, owned a livery stable and drove a steam engine at the firehouse on Fort St. East and Elmwood. Three generations of McClellans served at that firehouse. Gary's grandfather, Edward, was born in 1871. He married Clare Belanger in 1898. Their son, Wilbur, was Gary's father. Wilbur (Bill) McClellan died in 1970. "Bill" would have been pleased with his son's accomplishments.



Researched & Compiled by Bavarian Inn Lodge
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